

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 EA-11 NEA-10 SAB-01 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6088

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS PARIS 1261

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: P FOR TS

SUBJECT: MASMOUDI JANUARY 14TH INTERVIEW

1. IN ARTICLE IN JANUARY 16 LE MONDE, MANUELE PEYROL
ASCRIBES THE FOLLOWING TO EX-FOREIGN MINISTER MASMOUDI:

2. MASMOUDI SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN CONSIDERED TO BE
ABOUT TO LEAVE HIS JOB SEVERAL TIMES OVER THE LAST YEAR
FOR HAVING TAKEN CERTAIN INITIATIVES JUDGED "PERSONAL";
THESE WERE AT THE UN, ON THE VOTE ON THE ADMISSION OF
CHINA, AND IN PEKING AND HANOI DURING HIS ASIAN TRIP. HE
WAS CONSIDERED BY CERTAIN PERSONS AS AN OBSTACLE TO THE
DIPLOMATIC ACTION IN FAVOR OF THE ARABS AND, IN PARTICULAR,
THE PALESTINIANS, ENVISAGED BY PRESIDENT BOUGUIBA
DURING HIS UPCOMING TRIP TO THE U.S.

3. MASMOUDI SAID THAT THE TUNISIAN-LIBYAN UNION
HAD PLAYED NO ROLE IN THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE
PRESIDENT CONCERNING HIMSELF, BUT, RATHER, IT WAS THE
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RESULT OF MANOEUVRES AND OBSCURE COMPLAINTS MADE BY

CERTAIN PEOPLE WHICH WEREN'T WORTH TALKING ABOUT. IF
HE COULD NO LONGER, AS HEAD OF TUNISIAN DIPLOMACY,
REPRESENT TUNISIAN POLICY IN ALL ITS ALLIANCES, HE
WOULD NOT "IG G*AVES" UNDER THE TITLE OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVES, THE POST BOURGUIBA HAD OFFERED HIM
WHICH H REFUSED. HE WAS CONCERNED, ABOVE ALL,?ABOUT
THE DJERBA AGREEMENT " WHICH*THE *WO CHIEFS OF S*ATE*HAD SIGNED IN FULL C NSCIENCE AND LUCIDITY". HE
CONCLUDED THAT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA WAS,OF COURSE,
FREE TO CHOOSE HIS COLLABORATORS.STONE

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